

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1-93. No claims are being amended, added or canceled by this response.

Interview Summary

The courtesies extended by Examiner Bahta to Applicant's representatives, Eric L. Amundsen and Lawrence M. Green, during the telephone interview of February 2, 2006 are acknowledged. Anthony Griggs, the inventor, and Kenneth Woodbine, a representative of the assignee, were also present for the telephone interview. The substance of the interview is discussed below in the response to the rejection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-93 were rejected under 35U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Matsumiya et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,671,571). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described by the undersigned during the interview, in conventional manufacturing systems, a tool is used to machine a workpiece, and then the workpiece is removed from the machine tool and placed in a coordinate measurement machine (CMM) for performing measurements on the workpiece. The system described in Matsumiya is one example of such a prior art manufacturing system. Figure 1 of Matsumiya shows a workpiece 30 being transferred from a machine tool 26 to a measuring machine 31 for measurement. As further support, it was noted that the text of Matsumiya states at col. 4, lines 57-61, "[w]hen the process machining for the workpiece 30 in the first chucking attitude has been completed, a measuring machine 31 executes coordinate measurement of the workpiece 30 according to the measurement program of a measurement control apparatus 32" (emphasis added). This clearly shows that a measuring machine performs coordinate measurement in the system of Matsumiya. Additionally, the undersigned pointed to Figure 9 which shows measuring machine 31 and machine tool 26 as separate components.

The undersigned contrasted the present invention, as claimed, from the prior art by noting that in the present invention, a coordinate measuring machine is not required because a machine tool